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OCT 19 1950

My dear General Burns:

Officers of the Department have been in informal contact with your office concerning our views on the intentions of the Chinese Communist regime as interpreted by Indian observers, but I am confirming them in writing in reply to your letter of October 2, 1950.

It is difficult to reach firm conclusions respecting the intentions of the Chinese Communists with respect to Korea and Indochina. The Department has given consideration to the various views of other governments with respect to the reports coming out of Peiping, together with all information available from other sources. In brief, the Department believes that (1) it cannot safely be assumed that the Chinese Communists in their several recent statements - public and private - were simply bluffing; (2) they possess the military capability to intervene in Korea, and Soviet and Chinese interests (that is, the interests of world Communism) in that area are such that they may have determined to do so. However, the most favorable moment for such overt intervention seems to have passed; and current estimates of Soviet global intentions and the history of outside Communist military participation in revolutionary movements in other countries alike lead to the estimate that such intervention, if it occurs, will be (a) limited in amount and (b) nominally covert instead of overt. This last conclusion is supported by our assumptions, based on evidence received from various sources, that the Peiping regime wishes to be admitted to the United Nations, and that the defeats suffered by the North Koreans in their aggression

will

Major General James H. Burns,
Office of the Secretary of Defense,
Room 3E924, Pentagon,
Washington 25, D.C.

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will logically have reduced any desire of the Chinese Communist regime to clash head-on with the armed forces of nations united within the framework of the UN.

There has been some question regarding the political sympathies and biases of the Indian Ambassador in Peiping, Mr. K. M. Panikkar, and his accuracy and objectivity as a reporter are subject to question. The Department is bringing up to date its biographic report of June 20, 1950 respecting him, copies of which were supplied the Department of Defense. I shall send you a copy of the revised report as soon as it is completed.

While telegrams the Department has received concerning the intentions of the Chinese Communists have already been made available to you, there is attached as of possible use a summary of such reports.

Sincerely yours,

H. Freeman Matthews
Deputy Under Secretary

orig - Gen. Burns
copy no. 1 - DC/R
" " 2 - S - Mr. Matthews
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Enclosure:

✓ As stated.

(See attached blue for initials)

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Cleared in draft with
SOA - Mr. Matthews

S/S-CR
OCT 19 1950 P.M.

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In reply refer to
CA 793.001/10-250

Pursuant to recent conversation and

My dear General Burns:

In response to your letter of October 2, 1950 commenting on the increasing number of reports setting forth the views of Indian representatives on the intentions of the Chinese Communist regime in Peiping and proposing that the Department of State make available its evaluation of the present position of the Chinese Communist regime as interpreted by Indian representatives, there is enclosed for your information a copy of a memorandum entitled "Diplomatic Roundup of Chinese Communist Intentions". Those diplomatic views, it will be remarked, have sprung in main from the reports of the Ambassador of the Government of India in Peiping, Mr. K. M. Panikkar.

There has been some question regarding the political sympathies and biases of the Indian Ambassador. His accuracy and objectivity as a reporter are thus brought into question. The Department of State is bringing up to date its biographic report of June 20, 1950 respecting him, copies of which were supplied the Department of Defense. I shall send you a copy of the revised report as soon as it is completed.

You will appreciate from the different views submitted in the enclosed memorandum, as well as from the nature of the case, that it is hardly feasible to reach firm conclusions respecting the intentions of the Chinese Communists with respect to Korea and Indochina. The Department has reached no firmer conclusions respecting the matter in point than represented by the consensus

of

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as previously discussed with officials of the Dept. of Defense

of the opinion expressed by Foreign Offices and diplomatic representatives of other Governments as reported herein. In summary of those opinions, it would appear that (1) it cannot safely be assumed that the Chinese Communists in their several recent demarches - public and private - were simply bluffing; (2) they possess the military capability and are in a present posture to intervene in Korea, and Soviet and Chinese interests (that is, the interests of world Communism) in that area are such that they may have determined to do so; but (3) current estimates of Soviet global intentions and knowledge of the history of outside Communist military participation in revolutionary movements in other countries alike lead to the estimate that such hypothetical intervention, if it occurs, will be (a) limited in amount and (b) nominally covert instead of overt. This last conclusion is supported by the additional presumptions that the Peiping regime presumably is sincerely desirous of achieving membership in the United Nations, and that the defeats suffered by the North Koreans in their aggression will logically have reduced somewhat the ardor of revolutionary groups for clashing head-on with the armed forces of nations united by local arrangements or in the framework of the UN.

estimates

within

Sincerely yours,

H. Freeman Matthews
Deputy Under Secretary

Enclosure:

As stated.

Original - Gen. Burns
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